

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The final office action of September 29, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended herein to remove an unnecessary recitation. Entry of the amendment is requested as it does not raise new issues or require further search or consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-14 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,606,707 to Hirota et al. ("Hirota"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Hirota relates to a conventional memory card, which receives data and an address corresponding to the data from the host (e.g. PC). However, the memory card does not receive information indicating the correspondence between the data and files such as, which part of which file the data belongs to. Instead, the host performs management of correspondence between data and files, i.e., file management.

Hirota describes, for example, at col. 7, lines 52-56 that a PC downloads digital contents, and a memory card can be loaded into and removed from the PC. Further, Hirota describes at col. 7, lines 57-58 that the PC 102 is connected to a communication line 101 (corresponding to a network). Additionally, Hirota discloses at col. 7, lines 66-67 that a memory card 109 is inserted into a memory card insertion slot 108 of a memory card writer 107. Hirota does not disclose, teach or suggest that the memory card 109 includes a file management portion. Indeed, a file management portion is included in the PC 102. In Hirota the control unit 322 in response to commands generated by the PC 102 reads, writes and deletes data in connection with the flash memory 303. The PC 102 however executes file management software stored on the hard disk 120 to cause the commands to be generated and transmits the commands to the memory card 109 via the memory card writer 107. As such, the file management portion is located in the PC 102, and not in the memory card 109.

Consistent with the above explanation and contrary to the action's assertion, the memory card recited in Hirota does not include nor does Hirota otherwise teach or suggest "a file management portion connected to the network interface and configured to manage a relationship between a data file from the network and an address of the memory cell array" as recited in claims 1 and 8. For at least these

reasons, claims 1 and 8 are patentably distinct from Hirota. Claims 2-7, 17 and 19, which ultimately depend from claim 1, and claims 9-14, 18 and 20, which ultimately depend from claim 8, are patentably distinct from Hirota for the same reasons as their ultimate base claim, and further in view of the additional features recited therein.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirota in view of U.S. patent no. 5,751,631 to Liu et al. ("Liu"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 15 and 16, which respectively depend from claims 1 and 8, were rejected over the combination of Hirota and Liu. Notwithstanding the propriety of the combination, Liu fails to remedy the defects of Hirota noted above. Namely, Liu lacks a teaching or suggestion of a file management portion as claimed. For at least this reason, the combination of Hirota and Liu, even assuming proper, does not result in the claim 15 and 16 inventions.

CONCLUSION

If any additional fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
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